Condition in Jails

2190. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the running conditions of the Presidency Jail in Calcutta as reported in Asian Age dated 7-2-2000, comparing the same to hell where prisoners are raped, auctioned, ill-treated and beaten by hardened criminals and jail staff;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any independent probe into the running conditions of various jails in the country; and

(c) whether Government have considered the question of placing the jails in the country under a central authority and under constant scrutiny of the National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) "Prisons" is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. As such, prison management is primarily the responsibility, of the State Governments, Howere, the Central Government has been stressing upon the State Governments the need to improve the conditions in jails. The Central Government had also appointed a Committee, known as the All India Committee on Jail Reforms (1980-83), to go into the entire gamut of prison administration in the country. Thereafter, a Group of officers was constituted in 1986 to look specifically into security, discipline and other closely related aspects of prison administration.

"Prisons" being a State subject, the Central Government has not considered the question of placing jails in the country under a Central authority. However, section 12 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, *inter alia,* provides that the National Human Rights Commission may visit, under intimation to the State Government, any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection, to study the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon.

Plan to counter ISI activities

2191. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Kargil war the activities of ISI are growing round the country;